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POLICY

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Actions Taken Regarding Food Imports from Japan

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

Effective April 1, 2011, Canada has implemented enhanced import controls on all food and animal feed products from areas in Japan affected by the ongoing nuclear crisis. These products will not be allowed entry into the food and feed systems without acceptable documentation or test results verifying their safety. Canada has also launched a sampling and testing strategy to monitor radiation levels of products being imported from Japan.

General Information:

In response to the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has implemented enhanced import controls on all food and animal feed products from the affected areas in Japan. These products will not be allowed entry into the Canadian food and feed systems without acceptable documentation or test results verifying their safety. In addition, the CFIA has launched a sampling and testing strategy to monitor radiation levels of products being imported from Japan.

Currently, the areas considered affected include:

- Fukushima
- Gunma
- Ibaraki
- Tochigi
- Miyagi
- Yamagata
- Niigata
- Nagano
- Yamanashi
- Saitama
- Tokyo
- Chiba

This list will be adjusted as required to ensure that border controls continue to maintain the safety of Canada's food supply.

The CFIA has instructed the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to refer all shipments of food and feed from Japan to the CFIA National Import Service Centre. CFIA officials will assess the shipments to determine if they can enter the market.

All shipments of food and animal feed from Japan must be accompanied by a signed attestation from the importer (<http://inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/imp/annexe.shtml>) indicating that:

- products did not originate from the affected areas in Japan.
or
- products were produced, grown, processed, packaged or stored in one or more of the affected areas before March 11, 2011 and have been transported and stored outside of those areas until they arrived in Canada,
or
- products were produced, grown, processed, packaged or stored in any of the affected areas after March 11, 2011, but have been tested for residual activity by a laboratory acceptable to the Government of Canada and found to have residual levels of background radioactivity below Canadian action levels.

The CFIA has also launched a sampling and testing strategy to monitor radiation levels of products being imported from Japan. As part of this approach, the CFIA will:

- sample and test targeted food and animal feed originating from the affected areas in Japan,

- sample and test food and animal feed from Japan that is not accompanied by the appropriate documentation, and
- randomly sample and test food and animal feed from other areas of Japan.

This approach will target the commodities posing the greatest risk but will also focus on a broader range of other commodities through random sampling and testing.

According to CFIA "as expected, negligible levels of radioactivity have been detected along the North American west coast. The radiation levels found on the west coast are less than the natural levels of radiation that would be detected when it rains or snows."

The table below presents a summary of Canadian imports from Japan:

Canadian Imports of Agriculture and Fish Products						
<i>Million US Dollars</i>	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Canadian Ag. & Fish Imports	18,866.0	21,031.9	24,272.6	28,105.8	26,329.6	29,166.9
Ag. & Fish Imports From Japan	56.1	61.0	69.8	77.5	77.0	83.4
Japan Import Share	0.30%	0.29%	0.29%	0.28%	0.29%	0.29%
- Fish and Seafood	13.0	15.4	19.3	17.4	17.3	18.3
- Enzymes	6.8	6.0	6.4	8.4	6.6	8.6
- Cookies, Pastry, Cakes	3.6	4.8	5.0	5.9	5.6	6.4
- Soy Sauce, Other Seasonings	3.5	3.6	4.1	4.8	5.3	5.6
- Tea	1.9	2.4	3.0	4.2	4.4	4.9
- Sesame Oil	2.2	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.7	4.9
- Pasta	2.3	2.9	2.8	3.9	3.9	4.7

Source: *Global Trade Atlas*

More information about Canada's response to the nuclear crisis in Japan can be found following these links posted on CFIA's website:

- [Fact Sheet: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Border Controls](#)
- [Questions and Answers: Food Safety and Japan Imports](#)
- [Testing for Radiation in Domestic and Imported Food](#)
- [Attestation for Importation of Japanese Food and Feed Products, Including Ingredients](#)
- [Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada - Canada's response to the earthquake in Japan](#)
- [Health Canada - Information Update: No radiation at harmful levels will reach Canada](#)
- [Public Safety Canada - Japan Earthquake Information for Canadians](#)